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Hunting and Fishing Regulations

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Hunting and Fishing Regulations

I. Introduction

This Guide provides an overview of hunting and fishing regulations in Iowa. By law all wildlife found in Iowa belongs to the public, including all fish, mussels, clams, and frogs; and all wild game, animals, and birds, including their nests and eggs, and all other wildlife found in the state, whether game or nongame, native or migratory.¹ Policies for the management of wildlife resources for the use and enjoyment of all Iowans, including allowing and regulating hunting and fishing of wild animals, are contained in statutes enacted by the General Assembly and in rules promulgated by the Natural Resource Commission (Commission) in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

References in this Guide to the Iowa Code are to the 2020 Iowa Code. References to the Iowa Administrative Code are to the Administrative Code as of January 2021. References to Internet sites are to references published as noted.

II. Agency Regulation of Hunting and Fishing

A. Department of Natural Resources

The DNR is created by statute and given primary responsibility for managing fish and wildlife resources in this state.² The DNR has the duty to protect, propagate, increase, and preserve wild mammals, fish, birds, reptiles, and amphibians and enforce laws, rules, and regulations relating to these animals.³

1. Director

The director is the chief administrative officer of the DNR and is appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate.⁴ The director is a full-time employee of the state whose duties include providing overall supervision, direction, and coordination of the functions of the DNR and its employees.⁵

2. Conservation and Recreation Division

The DNR is organized into two divisions, the Environmental Services Division and the Conservation and Recreation Division. The Conservation and Recreation Division, which manages wildlife resources, is, in turn, organized into five bureaus:⁶

a. Fisheries Bureau

- Enhances fishing opportunities in Iowa, including through new lake construction and restoration, habitat enhancement, and stocking waters with fish.
- Operates fish hatcheries throughout the state to ensure quality fishing in Iowa's water bodies.⁷
- Recommends fishing regulations.

¹ Iowa Code §481A.2.

² Iowa Code §455A.2.

³ Iowa Code §456A.23.

⁴ Iowa Code §455A.3.

⁵ Iowa Code §455A.4.

⁶ Iowa Department of Natural Resources, "Table of Organization," www.iowadnr.gov/portals/idnr/uploads/files/orgchart.pdf.

⁷ Iowa Department of Natural Resources, "Fisheries Management: Fisheries Management Offices," www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/DNR-Staff-Offices/Fisheries-Management (last visited December 30, 2020).



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- Oversees the construction of new public lakes. Eleven new public lakes were constructed between 1986 and 2016.⁸

b. Wildlife Bureau

- Maintains over 356,000 acres of public land that provide habitat for game and nongame wildlife and opportunities for public hunting and outdoor recreation.⁹
- Employs biologists who provide wildlife habitat assistance to private landowners.¹⁰
- Recommends hunting and trapping seasons.
- Conducts wildlife research restoration programs for game and nongame species.¹¹

c. Parks Bureau

- Operates and maintains 71 parks and recreation areas in the state, providing facilities for camping, cabins, picnicking, trails, swimming, boating, fishing, family reunions, weddings, and other events.
- Manages Honey Creek Resort, which includes a lodge, cabins, restaurant, golf course, and waterpark.
- Supervises programs in recreation planning and resource protection.¹²

d. Law Enforcement Bureau

- Employs conservation officers who enforce laws related to fish, wildlife, boating, snowmobiling, and all-terrain vehicles; provides hunter education for adults and children; and provides outdoor skills workshops.¹³
- Investigates incidents relating to outdoor recreation.

e. Land and Waters Bureau

- Provides land acquisition and land management services to the Conservation and Recreation Division.¹⁴
- Implements the Environmental Review and Sovereign Land Construction Permit Program.¹⁵

⁸ Iowa Department of Natural Resources, "30th Anniversary: 1986-2016: Celebrating 30 Achievements for Iowa's Natural Resources," www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/30th-anniversary (last visited December 30, 2020).

⁹ Iowa Department of Natural Resources, "DNR Staff & Offices," www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/DNR-Staff-Offices (last visited December 30, 2020).

¹⁰ Iowa Department of Natural Resources, "Wildlife Landowner Assistance: Private Lands Efforts Are Reestablishing Habitat," www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/Wildlife-Landowner-Assistance (last visited December 30, 2020).

¹¹ Iowa Department of Natural Resources, "Wildlife Status Report," www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/Iowas-Wildlife/Wildlife-Status-Reports (last visited December 30, 2020); Iowa Department of Natural Resources, "Wildlife Species Restoration," www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/Iowas-Wildlife/Wildlife-Species-Restoration (last visited December 30, 2020).

¹² Iowa Department of Natural Resources, "A Guide to Iowa State Parks," www.iowadnr.gov/portals/idnr/uploads/parks/state-park-guide.pdf (last visited December 30, 2020).

¹³ Iowa Department of Natural Resources, "Conservation Law Enforcement," www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/DNR-Staff-Offices/Conservation-Law-Enforcement (last visited December 30, 2020).

¹⁴ Iowa Department of Natural Resources, "Realty Services," www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/About-DNR/Realty-Services (last visited December 30, 2020).

¹⁵ Iowa Department of Natural Resources, "Sovereign Lands Permits," www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Land-Quality/Sovereign-Lands-Permits (last visited December 30, 2020).



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- Conducts activities involving state and federal threatened and endangered species.¹⁶
- Coordinates the river and water trail programs.¹⁷

B. Natural Resource Commission (Commission)

1. Responsibilities and Duties

The Commission is created by statute to:

- Oversee the functions of the DNR concerned with wildlife management.¹⁸
- Determine whether biological balance exists.
- By administrative rule set hunting seasons, method and hours of take, bag and catch limits, size limits, possession limits, and territorial limits for fishing and hunts, and make necessary regulations regarding the taking of animals in accordance with sound fish and wildlife management principles.¹⁹
- Establish policies and adopt rules for the effective administration of statutes relating to wildlife resources.
- Hear appeals in contested cases relating to wildlife resources.
- Approve or disapprove proposals for the acquisition or disposal of state lands and waters relating to state parks, recreational facilities, and wildlife programs.
- Approve the DNR's annual budget request to the General Assembly for administration of wildlife resources.
- Set fees for permits and administration costs by considering reasonable costs associated with permit issuance and compliance monitoring, relative benefits to the applicant and the public, and typical costs associated with the permitted project or activity.
- Approve or disapprove proposals involving lakes, boating facilities, and recreational facilities associated with recreational boating.²⁰

2. Appointments

The Commission consists of seven members appointed by the Governor for staggered terms of six years, subject to Senate confirmation. Members must exhibit substantial knowledge of subjects involved with the protection and management of wildlife in the state, including enforcement of laws, rules, and regulations relating to those subjects.²¹

3. Meetings

The Commission generally meets on a monthly basis at various locations around the state. The agenda and location of each meeting is posted in advance, including on the DNR's Internet site. Members of the Commission are reimbursed for actual

¹⁶ Iowa Department of Natural Resources, "Threatened and Endangered," www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/Iowas-Wildlife/Threatened-and-Endangered (last visited December 30, 2020).

¹⁷ Iowa Department of Natural Resources, "Canoeing & Kayaking," www.iowadnr.gov/Things-to-Do/Canoeing-Kayaking (last visited December 30, 2020).

¹⁸ Iowa Code §455A.5.

¹⁹ Iowa Code §481A.39.

²⁰ Iowa Code §455A.5.

²¹ Iowa Code §455A.5(1).

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and necessary travel expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties, but are not employees of the state.²²

III. Regulation of Hunting and Fishing

A. Type of Animal Involved

1. Endangered and Threatened Animals

The Commission cooperates with the federal government to conserve and protect those species determined as endangered and threatened species by the federal government²³ and conducts investigations on fish and wildlife in the state to determine what management measures are necessary for the sustenance of these species. The Commission is also required to adopt a state list, specific to Iowa, of those species that the Commission determines are endangered or threatened in the state.²⁴

A person is prohibited from taking, possessing, selling or offering to sell, or buying or offering to buy, and a common or contract carrier is prohibited from transporting or receiving for shipment, any species of fish or wildlife that appears on either the state or federal lists of endangered or threatened fish or wildlife, unless a statute or rule otherwise provides.²⁵ Examples of exemptions from this prohibition include furs or skins of wildlife purchased or taken from outside the state if they are tagged or permanently marked by the state, country, or territory of origin, or live animals on the list held pursuant to a scientific collecting permit or educational project permit.²⁶

2. Protected Nongame Animals

By statute, protected nongame species of animals that cannot be taken include wild fish, wild birds, wild bats, wild reptiles, and wild amphibians, as well as eggs, nests, and dead bodies or parts of the dead bodies of such animals or products made from body parts of such animals.²⁷ “Taking,” “attempting to take,” or “hunt” means pursuing or hunting, fishing, killing, trapping, snaring, netting, searching for or shooting at, or stalking or lying in wait for any game, animal, bird, or fish protected by state laws or rules adopted by the Commission, whether or not such animal is subsequently captured, killed, or injured.²⁸

3. Other Protected Animals

By statute, certain animals are excepted from the definition of “protected nongame animals.” These animals are still protected because they can be taken only under specified circumstances or conditions pursuant to statute or pursuant to rules established by the Commission.²⁹ Animals in this category include:

²² Iowa Code §455A.5(3).

²³ Iowa Code §481B.2.

²⁴ Iowa Code §481B.3. See Iowa Admin. Code 571-77.2, for the list.

²⁵ Iowa Code §481B.5.

²⁶ Iowa Code §§481A.65, 481B.9; Iowa Admin. Code 571-77.4(2), (3).

²⁷ Iowa Code §481A.42.

²⁸ Iowa Code §481A.1(32).

²⁹ Iowa Code §481A.42.



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a. Game

“Game” includes all of the following specified animals, except those designated as not protected, and includes the heads, skins, and any other parts, and the nests, eggs, and plumage of birds:

- The Anatidae: such as swans, geese, brant, and ducks.
- The Rallidae: such as rails, coots, mudhens, and gallinules.
- The Limicolae: such as shorebirds, plovers, surfbirds, snipe, woodcock, sandpipers, tattlers, godwits, and curlews.
- The Gallinae: such as wild turkeys, grouse, pheasants, partridges, and quail.
- The Columbidae: mourning doves and wild rock doves only.
- The Sciuridae: such as gray squirrels and fox squirrels.
- The Leporidae: cottontail rabbits and jackrabbits only.
- The Cervidae: such as elk or deer, other than farm deer.³⁰

Additional restrictions relating to certain game birds and animals prohibit disturbing, pursuing, shooting, killing, taking or attempting to take, or possessing a gray or fox squirrel, bobwhite quail, cottontail rabbit or jackrabbit, duck, snipe, pheasant, goose, woodcock, partridge, coot, rail, ruffed grouse, wild turkey, pigeon, or deer, except as otherwise provided by law.

Migratory birds are protected by federal law. Some migratory birds classified as migratory game birds may be hunted in accordance with state and federal regulations.³¹ For instance, Iowa law prohibits the taking or possession of migratory birds other than those that are specified in the statute, such as ducks, geese, and mourning doves,³² and designated raptors and crows.³³

b. Fish

Fish can only be taken pursuant to regulations established by statute or rule.³⁴

c. Fur-Bearing Animals

Fur-bearing animals include beaver, badger, mink, otter, muskrat, raccoon, skunk, opossum, spotted skunk or civet cat, weasel, coyote, bobcat, wolf, groundhog, red fox, and gray fox, but do not include domesticated fur-bearing animals.³⁵ Fur-bearing animals can only be taken, captured, killed, or possessed during the open season set by the Commission, except as necessary for the protection of a person or public or private property with the prior permission of a representative of the Commission, or without prior permission when the

³⁰ Iowa Code §481A.1(21).

³¹ Iowa Department of Natural Resources, www.iowadnr.gov/portals/idnr/uploads/Hunting/10_fedwaterfowlregs.pdf (last visited December 30, 2020).

³² Iowa Code §481A.48(1).

³³ Iowa Code §481A.48(3).

³⁴ Iowa Code §§481A.1(18), 481A.38.

³⁵ Iowa Code §§481A.1(20), 481A.38.

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fur-bearing animal represents a threat to a person, domestic animal, or private property.³⁶

d. Frogs

Frogs can only be taken pursuant to regulations established by statute or rule.³⁷

e. Turtles

Turtles can only be taken pursuant to regulations established by statute or rule.³⁸

f. Mussels

Mussels can only be taken pursuant to regulations established by statute or rule.³⁹

g. Nuisances

Nuisances are species of nongame animals that by their abundance or habits are declared a nuisance by the Commission. Unprotected nongame animals so designated presently include European starlings and house sparrows,⁴⁰ garter snakes, and timber rattlesnakes that are not located in specific areas.⁴¹

Special provisions allow the taking of protected animals that have become nuisances. For instance, there is a continuous open season for taking pigeons.⁴² Pigeons posing a health or safety hazard can also be taken by trapping or with specified pesticide repellents or toxic perches.⁴³ Muskrat houses may be molested or disturbed on specific state or county game management areas upon a finding that muskrats are causing excessive damage by destroying vegetation essential to the welfare of a marsh.⁴⁴ A conservation officer or wildlife biologist may authorize a landowner or tenant to trap coyotes outside the established trapping season upon a finding that the coyotes are causing damage.⁴⁵ The DNR is authorized to issue deer depredation licenses and shooting permits when deer are causing excessive damage to agricultural or high-value horticultural crops and to organize and allow other special deer hunts when necessary.⁴⁶

h. Bats

Bats, except for the Indiana bat, can be taken when found within a building that is occupied by humans.⁴⁷

³⁶ Iowa Code § 481A.87.

³⁷ Iowa Code §§481A.1(19), 481A.38.

³⁸ Iowa Code §§481A.1(34), 481A.38.

³⁹ Iowa Code §§481A.1(24), 481A.38.

⁴⁰ Iowa Admin. Code 571-76.1(1).

⁴¹ Iowa Admin. Code 571-76.1(2).

⁴² Iowa Admin. Code 571-100.2(1).

⁴³ Iowa Admin. Code 571-100.2(2).

⁴⁴ Iowa Admin. Code 571-108.1(1).

⁴⁵ Iowa Admin. Code 571-108.5(2).

⁴⁶ Iowa Code ch. 481C.

⁴⁷ Iowa Code §481A.42.



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4. Nonprotected Animals

Animals not included in the category of endangered or threatened species, protected nongame species, or in one of the other categories specifically protected are not protected and can be killed indiscriminately. For example, most insects do not fall into any of the protected categories. As another example, mountain lions and black bears have been sighted in the state but they do not fall into any category of protected animals and there are currently no prohibitions on hunting or trapping them as long as they are taken by legal means and methods.

B. General Prohibitions

There are numerous prohibitions and limitations on hunting and fishing designed to maintain biological balance, to maintain a sense of “fair chase” in the taking of wild animals, and to prevent abuse of the animals being hunted and their offspring. Some of the prohibitions or limitations are:

1. Fishing Prohibitions

- No interference with designated fish spawning grounds.⁴⁸
- No unlawful erection, destruction, or alteration of dams hindering the passage of fish on waterways.⁴⁹
- No use of more than three tip-up fishing devices for fishing in the waters of the Mississippi River, the Missouri River, or the Big Sioux River, and no use of such devices near dams, spillways, or parts of a river posted against their use.⁵⁰
- No fishing except with hook, line, and sinker, except as otherwise allowed by law, and, except for tagged lines, no leaving lines and hooks in the water unattended.⁵¹
- No fishing with grabhooks, snaghooks, nets, seines, traps, firearms, dynamite or other explosives, poisonous or stupefying substances, lime, ashes, electricity, or hand fishing, except as otherwise allowed by law.⁵²
- No taking of fish, minnows, frogs, or other aquatic or biological life from any state fish hatchery, nursery, or other fish production area under the Commission’s jurisdiction.⁵³
- No use of a device, net, barrier, or fence restricting frogs from access to and egress from water.⁵⁴

2. Hunting Prohibitions

- No use of birds as targets, except when training hunting dogs or when a game bird is released at least 25 yards away from a hunter on a licensed hunting preserve.⁵⁵

⁴⁸ Iowa Code §481A.9.

⁴⁹ Iowa Code §§481A.14, 481A.15.

⁵⁰ Iowa Code §481A.68.

⁵¹ Iowa Code §§481A.72, 481A.73.

⁵² Iowa Code §481A.76.

⁵³ Iowa Code §481A.85.

⁵⁴ Iowa Code §481A.84.

⁵⁵ Iowa Code §481A.21.



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- No use of mobile radio transmitters to track the location or direction of game or to coordinate movements of hunters.⁵⁶
- No use of drugs on wildlife including drugs used for fertility control, disease prevention or treatment, immobilization, or growth stimulation, except by authorized persons.⁵⁷
- No selling the plumage, skin, or body of any protected bird.⁵⁸
- No buying or selling, dead or alive, a protected bird or animal or any part of one, except for the bones of legally taken wild turkeys and the skins, plumage, and antlers of legally taken game.⁵⁹
- No further chase or removal of a game bird or fur-bearing animal when pursued to a tree or den while training dogs.⁶⁰
- No disturbing any den, lodge, or house of a fur-bearing animal or beaver dam except with written permission of a DNR officer or when necessary to protect an owner's property.⁶¹
- No use of spotlights, headlights, or other artificial lights to spot, locate, or hunt a bird or animal by persons with firearms, bows, or other implements for taking birds or animals, except in the following circumstances:⁶²
 - When raccoons or other fur-bearing animals are treed with the aid of dogs.
 - When a person who is certified as totally blind hunts with a bow or gun while using a laser sight.
 - Pursuant to a special deer population control plan.
 - When the person is using an infrared light source to hunt coyotes and the infrared light source is mounted to the method of take or to a scope mounted on the method of take, except that the person shall not hunt coyotes using an infrared light source during any established muzzleloader, bow, or shotgun deer hunting season.
- No hunting any animal, fowl, or fish from aircraft or snowmobiles.⁶³
- No hunting game or fur-bearing animals with a firearm within 200 yards of a building inhabited by people or domestic livestock or of a feedlot, unless the owner or tenant consents, or unless hunting deer within 50 yards of such a building or feedlot within a city's limits with such consent, pursuant to an approved special deer population control plan.⁶⁴
- No taking a predominately white deer of the whitetail species.⁶⁵

⁵⁶ Iowa Code §481A.24.

⁵⁷ Iowa Code §481A.40.

⁵⁸ Iowa Code §481A.50.

⁵⁹ Iowa Code §481A.55(1).

⁶⁰ Iowa Code §481A.56(1).

⁶¹ Iowa Code §481A.90.

⁶² Iowa Code §481A.93. See 2020 Iowa Acts, ch. 1021, §1.

⁶³ Iowa Code §481A.120.

⁶⁴ Iowa Code §481A.123(1).

⁶⁵ Iowa Code §481A.124.



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- No intentional interference with the lawful hunting, fishing, or fur-harvesting activities of another.⁶⁶
- No abandonment of an injured game or fur-bearing animal without reasonable retrieval efforts and no leaving of useable portions of game or fur-bearing animals in the field, other than pigeons or crows.⁶⁷

3. Weapon or Means of Take Prohibitions

- No use of crossbows except by certain persons with disabilities or as otherwise authorized.⁶⁸
- No shooting a rifle on or over any of the public waters or public highways of the state or any railroad right-of-way.⁶⁹
- No shooting a shotgun shooting slugs, a pistol, or a revolver on or over a public roadway. “Public roadway” means the traveled portion of the road and the shoulders ordinarily used for vehicular traffic as defined in Iowa Code section 321.1(65), but does not include the ditches. It is permissible to shoot a shotgun with bird shot on or over the roadway or from a ditch. It is also permissible to shoot a shotgun shooting slugs from a road ditch down the road ditch or into an adjacent field, but not from the traveled portion of the road or from the shoulder.⁷⁰
- No discharging a rifle, including a muzzleloading rifle or musket, or a handgun from a highway while deer hunting. No shooting a shotgun shooting slugs from a highway while deer hunting in areas north of U.S. Highway 30. “Highway” means the way between property lines open to the public for vehicle traffic, including the ditches, as defined in Iowa Code section 321.1(78).⁷¹
- No use of dogs, domestic animals, bait, rifles other than muzzleloaders except as specified, handguns as specified, crossbows as specified, automobiles, aircraft, or any mechanical conveyance or device, including electronic calls, for hunting deer. Paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may hunt from any stationary motor-driven land conveyance.⁷²
- No capturing, trapping, or poisoning any game bird or animal except as otherwise authorized.⁷³
- No use of chemicals, explosives, smoking devices, mechanical ferrets, wires, tools, instruments, or water to remove fur-bearing animals from their dens, except as otherwise provided.⁷⁴
- No gun carried in or on a vehicle on a public highway unless the gun is taken down or totally contained in a case and is unloaded, except as otherwise authorized.⁷⁵

⁶⁶ Iowa Code §481A.125.

⁶⁷ Iowa Code §481A.137.

⁶⁸ Iowa Code §481A.38(1)(b). See Iowa Code §§483A.8(8), 483A.8B.

⁶⁹ Iowa Code §481A.54(1).

⁷⁰ See Iowa Code §481A.54(2).

⁷¹ Iowa Admin. Code 571-106.7(7).

⁷² Iowa Admin. Code 571-106.7(6).

⁷³ Iowa Code §481A.58.

⁷⁴ Iowa Code §481A.92(2).

⁷⁵ Iowa Code §483A.36.



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- No use of swivel guns or any other firearm except those commonly shot from the shoulder or hand and no gun larger than number 10 gauge for hunting.⁷⁶
- No spearing or shooting with a shotgun any beaver, mink, otter, or muskrat.⁷⁷
- No remote control or Internet hunting of a wild animal, game bird, or ungulate on a hunting preserve.⁷⁸

4. Trapping and Game Breeding Prohibitions

- No raising or selling game or fur-bearing animals, except rock doves and pigeons, without a game breeder's license, and no handling and confinement of such animals except with humane care and treatment. However, an owner or tenant of land may obtain pen-reared pheasants from a hatchery approved by the DNR to raise and release on that person's land.⁷⁹
- No acquiring protected live game animals, game birds and their eggs, or fur-bearing animals from the wild for game breeding.⁸⁰
- No interference with homing pigeons.⁸¹
- No banding or marking of birds or animals without Commission approval.⁸²
- No use of colony traps to take any game or fur-bearing animals, except muskrats, as determined by the Commission.⁸³
- No use of box traps capable of capturing more than one game or fur-bearing animal at each setting.⁸⁴
- No use of traps and snares, unless they are labeled with the user's name and address and are checked at least once every 24 hours, except when placed entirely under water.⁸⁵
- No use of humane traps or traps designed to kill instantly with a jaw spread exceeding eight inches, except when placed entirely under water.⁸⁶
- No use of conibear-type traps and snares set on the right-of-way of a public road within 200 yards of the entry to the private drive of a residence without permission of the occupant.⁸⁷
- No use of snares with a loop larger than eight inches in horizontal measurement, except when at least one-half of the loop is under water.⁸⁸
- No use of snares with loops larger than 11 inches in horizontal measurement set on private land, other than roadsides, within 30 yards of a pond, lake, creek, drainage ditch, stream, or river.⁸⁹

⁷⁶ Iowa Code §483A.37.

⁷⁷ Iowa Code §481A.91.

⁷⁸ Iowa Code §481A.125A.

⁷⁹ Iowa Code §§481A.6A, 481A.60.

⁸⁰ Iowa Code §481A.61(4).

⁸¹ Iowa Code §481A.59.

⁸² Iowa Code §481A.66.

⁸³ Iowa Code §481A.92(1).

⁸⁴ Iowa Code §481A.92(1).

⁸⁵ Iowa Code §481A.92(1).

⁸⁶ Iowa Code §481A.92(2).

⁸⁷ Iowa Code §481A.92(3).

⁸⁸ Iowa Code §481A.92(4).

⁸⁹ Iowa Code §481A.92(4).



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- No use of snares without a functional deer lock that does not allow the snare loop to close smaller than two and one-half inches in diameter.⁹⁰
- No possession of more than two game birds or fur-bearing animals as pets without obtaining a game breeder's license. Such animals may be kept as pets only if obtained from a licensed game breeder or from a legal source outside the state and not allowed to increase in number.⁹¹

C. Miscellaneous Licensing Provisions

1. Administration Fee

- An administration fee of \$1.50 shall be collected on each license except for certain free licenses.⁹²

2. Fee Increases

- Prior to legislation enacted in 2018, hunting and fishing license fees were established in the Iowa Code. Since the passage of House File 631 in 2018, the DNR is tasked with evaluating at least once every three years whether fees paid are sufficient to meet the needs of natural resource management and the public.
- By December 15 of each year that an evaluation is completed, the DNR shall file a report with the Commission and the General Assembly that shall include the evaluation and recommendations for changes, if any.
- A proposed fee increase shall not take effect until December 15 of the year succeeding the report. An individual license fee shall not be increased in any calendar year by more than 5 percent.⁹³
- Fees listed in this Guide are accurate as of the 2020-2021 hunting and fishing seasons.

3. Go Outdoors Iowa

- The DNR launched an electronic licensing system called Go Outdoors Iowa. The system allows a license customer to purchase licenses and report harvests online or through a mobile application.
- Display of a license on a mobile device using the mobile application is a legal means of carrying a license in the field.⁹⁴

4. Logan's Law

- In 2019, the General Assembly passed Senate File 86, known as Logan's Law, to require the DNR to include, upon request, a symbol on a license holder's hunting, fishing, and fur harvester license indicating that the license holder is an anatomical donor.

⁹⁰ Iowa Code §481A.92(5).

⁹¹ Iowa Code §483A.23.

⁹² Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.4.

⁹³ 2018 Iowa Acts, ch. 1159.

⁹⁴ Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Go Outdoors Iowa, www.iowadnr.gov/about-dnr/go-outdoors-iowa (last visited December 30, 2020).

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- A minor may have the symbol included on a hunting, fishing, or fur harvester license if the minor is at least 14 years of age and has the signed approval of a parent or guardian.⁹⁵

IV. Fishing Licenses and Fees

With some exceptions, a person who intends to fish in this state must obtain a fishing license. Fishing license and fee requirements are generally based upon the type of fish, whether the fishing is for personal or commercial purposes, and residency status.

A. Sport Fishing Licenses

- Annual license — \$20 for residents and \$46 for nonresidents.⁹⁶
- Three-year resident fishing license — \$60.⁹⁷
- Seven-day fishing license — \$13.50 for residents and \$33.50 for nonresidents.⁹⁸
- Three-day nonresident license — \$18.50.⁹⁹
- One-day fishing license — \$8.50 for residents and \$10 for nonresidents.¹⁰⁰
- Annual boundary waters sport trotline fishing license — \$24 for residents and \$47.50 for nonresidents.¹⁰¹
- Lifetime fishing license available to a person who is 65 years of age or older — \$59.50.¹⁰²
- Lifetime fishing or lifetime hunting and fishing combined license available to a person who served in the armed forces of the United States on active federal service and was disabled or was a prisoner of war during the person's military service — \$5.¹⁰³
- Special annual fishing license available to a person who is 16 years of age or older and has severe mental or physical disabilities — no charge.¹⁰⁴
- Special annual fishing license available to a person who has permanent disabilities and is low income — no charge.¹⁰⁵
- Special annual fishing license available to a person who is 65 years of age or older and is low income — no charge.¹⁰⁶

B. Annual Commercial Fishing Licenses

- Commercial fisher license — \$200 for a resident and \$400 for a nonresident. This license is required for a person to operate commercial gear and commercially take, attempt to take, possess, transport, sell, barter, trade, or buy commercial turtles or turtle eggs, commercial fish except roe species, or fish parts except roe. A

⁹⁵ 2019 Iowa Acts, ch. 86.

⁹⁶ Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(1)(a), (2)(a).

⁹⁷ Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(1)(b).

⁹⁸ Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(1)(c), (2)(b).

⁹⁹ Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(2)(c).

¹⁰⁰ Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(1)(d), (2)(d).

¹⁰¹ Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(1)(j), (2)(h).

¹⁰² Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(1)(f).

¹⁰³ Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(1)(p).

¹⁰⁴ Iowa Code §483A.24(11).

¹⁰⁵ Iowa Code §483A.24(17).

¹⁰⁶ Iowa Code §483A.24(17).



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commercial fisher licensee can operate any licensed commercial gear and take, attempt to take, possess, sell, barter, or trade turtles or turtle eggs taken with such commercial gear.¹⁰⁷

- Commercial fish helper license — \$50 for a resident and \$100 for a nonresident. This license is required for a person to assist a commercial fisher or a commercial roe harvester in operating commercial gear, or in taking, attempting to take, possessing, or transporting commercial fish, roe species, roe, commercial turtles, or turtle eggs. A commercial fish helper is not permitted to buy, sell, barter, or trade commercial fish, roe species, roe, commercial turtles, or turtle eggs.¹⁰⁸
- Commercial roe harvester license — \$100 for a resident and \$3,500 for a nonresident. This license is required for a person to harvest, possess, transport, or sell roe or roe species or their parts. A commercial roe harvester can sell roe or roe species only to a commercial roe buyer licensed in this state. A commercial roe harvester licensee is not permitted to buy, barter, or trade roe or roe species.¹⁰⁹
- Commercial roe buyer license — \$250 for a resident and \$500 for a nonresident. This license is required for a person to engage in the business of buying, bartering, or trading roe or roe species for resale.¹¹⁰
- Commercial turtle harvester license — \$100 for a resident and \$400 for a nonresident. This license is required for a person to operate commercial gear and take, attempt to take, possess, transport, sell, barter, or trade commercial turtles or turtle eggs. Nonresident commercial turtle harvesters can harvest turtles only from the boundary waters of the state (i.e., the Mississippi, Missouri, and Big Sioux Rivers).¹¹¹
- Commercial turtle helper license — \$50 for a resident and \$100 for a nonresident. This license is required for a person to assist a commercial turtle harvester in operating commercial gear, or in taking, attempting to take, possessing, or transporting commercial turtles or turtle eggs. A commercial turtle helper is not permitted to buy, sell, barter, or trade commercial turtles or turtle eggs.¹¹²
- Commercial turtle buyer license — \$200 for a resident and \$400 for a nonresident. This license is required for a person to engage in the business of buying, selling, bartering, or trading commercial turtles or turtle eggs.¹¹³

C. Special Fishing Provisions

- Trout Fishing. A fishing licensee shall not fish for or possess trout without paying an additional trout fishing fee of \$12.50 for a resident or \$15.50 for a nonresident.¹¹⁴ Persons under 16 years of age who are not required to have a fishing license are required to pay the trout fishing fee to fish for or possess trout unless fishing with

¹⁰⁷ Iowa Code §§482.2(3), 482.4(4)(a), (b), 482.10(1)(a). See also Iowa Code §482.11(1)(d).

¹⁰⁸ Iowa Code §§482.2(2), 482.4(4)(c), (d), 482.10(1)(b).

¹⁰⁹ Iowa Code §§482.2(7), 482.4(4)(g), (h), 482.10(1)(c).

¹¹⁰ Iowa Code §§482.2(6), 482.4(4)(e), (f), 482.10(1)(d).

¹¹¹ Iowa Code §§482.2(1), (10), 482.4(4)(k),(l), 482.11(1)(a).

¹¹² Iowa Code §§482.2(12), 482.4(4)(m), (n), 482.11(1)(b).

¹¹³ Iowa Code §§482.2(9), 482.4(4)(i), (j), 482.11(1)(c).

¹¹⁴ Iowa Code §483A.6; Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(1)(i), (2)(g).

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a licensed adult who has paid the trout fishing fee and restricting their combined catch to the daily limit established by the Commission.¹¹⁵

- Paddlefish Fishing. A person may fish for paddlefish on the Missouri River or the Big Sioux River after acquiring a paddlefish fishing license for a fee of \$23.50 for a resident or \$47 for a nonresident in addition to a fishing license, if required. A paddlefish fishing license shall be accompanied by a tag designed to be used only once and a person who successfully takes a paddlefish shall immediately attach and date the tag.¹¹⁶
- Turtle Fishing. A valid fishing license entitles a person to take and possess a maximum of 100 pounds of live turtles or 50 pounds of dressed turtles, but not to sell, barter, or trade the turtles.¹¹⁷
- Freshwater Mussel Fishing. A valid fishing license entitles a person to take and possess a maximum amount of mussels or shells daily, as specified by the Commission by rule, but not to sell, barter, or trade the mussels or shells. Commercial harvesting of freshwater mussels is no longer allowed in Iowa.¹¹⁸

D. Fishing License Not Required

- Owners or tenants of land and their juvenile children fishing on their own land.¹¹⁹
- Persons under 16 years of age.¹²⁰ Persons under 16 years of age who are assisting a commercial fisher or a commercial turtle harvester are not required to purchase a commercial fish helper or commercial turtle helper license.¹²¹
- Students 16 years of age or older participating in a DNR Fish Iowa! supervised school outing with a permit.¹²²
- Minor pupils of the State School for the Blind, Iowa School for the Deaf, or minor residents of other state institutions under the control of the Department of Human Services.¹²³
- Persons on active duty with the United States armed forces on authorized leave from a duty station located outside the state.¹²⁴
- Persons who are residents of a county care facility or who are receiving state supplementary assistance under Iowa Code chapter 249.¹²⁵
- Lessees of a camping space at a campground fishing on a private lake or pond on the premises of the campground.¹²⁶
- Patients of a substance abuse facility, residents of a health care facility licensed under Iowa Code chapter 135C, tenants of elder group homes licensed under Iowa Code chapter 231B, tenants of assisted living program facilities licensed under

¹¹⁵ Iowa Code §483A.24(6).

¹¹⁶ Iowa Code §483A.6A; Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(1)(h), (2)(f).

¹¹⁷ Iowa Code §483A.28(2).

¹¹⁸ Iowa Code §483A.28(3); Iowa Admin. Code 571-87.1(4).

¹¹⁹ Iowa Code §483A.24(1).

¹²⁰ Iowa Code §483A.24(6).

¹²¹ Iowa Code §§482.10(1)(b), 482.11(1)(b).

¹²² Iowa Code §483A.24(18).

¹²³ Iowa Code §483A.24(7).

¹²⁴ Iowa Code §483A.24(7).

¹²⁵ Iowa Code §483A.24(7).

¹²⁶ Iowa Code §483A.24(14).



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Iowa Code chapter 231C, participants who attend adult day services programs licensed under Iowa Code chapter 231D, participants in services funded under a federal home and community-based services waiver implemented under the medical assistance program as defined in Iowa Code chapter 249A, persons cared for in juvenile shelter care homes pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 232 fishing in a supervised group, and persons supervising any of such groups, may fish pursuant to a permit issued by the DNR.¹²⁷

V. Hunting and Trapping Licenses and Fees

Generally, except as otherwise provided, a person who intends to hunt or trap protected wild animals, birds, or game in this state must obtain a hunting license or fur harvester license and pay the wildlife habitat fee established by rule by the Commission.¹²⁸ Special license and fee requirements exist for hunting deer, wild turkeys, and certain migratory game birds. The Commission is empowered to adopt procedures, by rule, for issuing licenses to take deer or wild turkey if the Commission finds that the number of hunters licensed or the type of license issued to take deer or wild turkey needs further limitation or regulation, although such rules cannot conflict with statutory requirements.¹²⁹

A. Hunting Licenses

1. License Required

- Annual hunting license — \$20 for a resident, \$30 for a nonresident under 18 years of age, and \$129 for a nonresident 18 years of age or older.¹³⁰
- Wildlife habitat fee — \$13.¹³¹
- Lifetime fishing or lifetime hunting and fishing combined license available to a resident who has served in the armed forces of the United States on active federal service and who was disabled or was a prisoner of war during the person's military service — \$5.¹³²
- Special annual combined hunting and fishing license available to a resident who has permanent disabilities and is low income — no charge.¹³³
- Special annual combined hunting and fishing license available to a resident who is 65 years of age or older and is low income — no charge.¹³⁴
- Lifetime hunting license available to a resident who is 65 years of age or older — \$59.50.¹³⁵
- A hunting license does not allow the holder to trap fur-bearing animals.¹³⁶
- A person born after January 1, 1972, cannot obtain a hunting license unless the person is at least 12 years of age and satisfactorily completes a hunter

¹²⁷Iowa Code §483A.24(15).

¹²⁸Iowa Code §483A.3; Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(1)(t).

¹²⁹Iowa Code §481A.38(2).

¹³⁰Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(1)(k), (2)(i), (k).

¹³¹Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(1)(t).

¹³²Iowa Code §483A.24(16); Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(1)(p).

¹³³Iowa Code §483A.24(17).

¹³⁴Iowa Code §483A.24(17).

¹³⁵Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(1)(n).

¹³⁶Iowa Code §481A.51.



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education course approved by the Commission. A resident who is at least 18 years of age may obtain a certificate of completion without demonstrating the safe handling of firearms. A person 11 years of age may complete the course and be issued a certificate of completion valid at age 12.¹³⁷

- A hunting licensee under 18 years of age must exhibit a valid certificate of completion of a state-approved hunter education course upon the request of a DNR officer.¹³⁸
- A member of the armed forces of the United States serving on active duty meeting certain qualifications and the spouse of a qualified member may purchase a resident hunting license.¹³⁹
- A writing fee of 50 cents is charged for the issuance of each hunting, fishing, or fur harvester license or combination package of licenses, except that the writing fee for free deer or wild turkey hunting licenses issued to landowners and tenants is \$1.¹⁴⁰
- A person who purchases a deer hunting license is required to pay a \$1 fee that is used for the purpose of deer herd population management including assisting with the cost of processing deer donated to the Help Us Stop Hunger (HUSH) program administered by the Commission.¹⁴¹

2. License Not Required

- A person under 16 years of age if accompanied by the person's parent or guardian, or any other competent adult with the consent of the person's parent or guardian, if the accompanying person possesses a valid hunting license. One licensed adult must accompany each minor. The person under 16 years of age is required to obtain a deer hunting license to hunt deer or a wild turkey hunting license to hunt wild turkey. Such license shall be appropriate for the minor's residency status. The failure of a nonresident minor's state of residency to provide reciprocal benefits to Iowa residents shall not preclude a nonresident minor from hunting without a hunting license after meeting these requirements.¹⁴²
- A person participating in a licensed field trial with a dog.¹⁴³
- A resident on active duty with the United States armed forces on authorized leave from a duty station located outside the state.¹⁴⁴
- A person who is a resident of a county care facility or who is receiving state supplementary assistance under Iowa Code chapter 249.¹⁴⁵

¹³⁷ Iowa Code §483A.27(1), (2)(b).

¹³⁸ Iowa Code §483A.27(10).

¹³⁹ Iowa Code §483A.1A(10)(e), (f). See 2020 Iowa Acts, ch. 1073, §§1-2.

¹⁴⁰ Iowa Code §483A.12.

¹⁴¹ Iowa Code §483A.8(1).

¹⁴² Iowa Code §483A.24(8). See 2020 Iowa Acts, ch. 1079, §1.

¹⁴³ Iowa Code §483A.24(10).

¹⁴⁴ Iowa Code §483A.24(7).

¹⁴⁵ Iowa Code §483A.24(7).



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- Minor pupils of the State School for the Blind, Iowa School for the Deaf, or minor residents of other state institutions under the control of the Department of Human Services.¹⁴⁶
- Owners or tenants of land and their juvenile children may hunt on their land and may shoot, by lawful means, ground squirrels, gophers, or woodchucks upon adjacent roads.¹⁴⁷

B. Fur Harvester Licenses

- Fur harvester license, 16 years of age or older — \$24 for a resident and \$232 for a nonresident.¹⁴⁸
- Fur harvester license, resident under 16 years of age — \$5.50.¹⁴⁹
- Fur harvester licensee must pay the wildlife habitat fee. Residents who are younger than 16 or older than 65 years of age or who have permanent disabilities are not required to pay the wildlife habitat fee.¹⁵⁰
- Required to hunt and trap fur-bearing animals. A hunting license is not required when hunting furbearers with a fur harvester license, but coyote and groundhog may be hunted with either a hunting or a fur harvester license.¹⁵¹
- Owners or tenants of land and their juvenile children may trap on their land without securing a fur harvester license.¹⁵²
- A resident under 16 years of age is not required to carry a fur harvester license while accompanying a parent or guardian, or other competent adult with the permission of the minor's parent or guardian, while the parent, guardian, or other adult is hunting raccoons so long as the minor is not hunting and does not carry or use a firearm or any other weapon.¹⁵³
- A person participating in a licensed field trial with a dog is not required to obtain a fur harvester license.¹⁵⁴

C. Fur Dealer Licenses

- Annual fur dealer license — \$264 for a resident and \$586.50 for a nonresident.¹⁵⁵
- Required for persons in the business of buying, bartering, trading, or otherwise obtaining raw hides or skins of fur-bearing animals.¹⁵⁶
- Residents of another state may pay a lower amount than provided by statute if the other state has a reciprocity agreement with this state.¹⁵⁷

¹⁴⁶ Iowa Code §483A.24(7).

¹⁴⁷ Iowa Code §483A.24(1).

¹⁴⁸ Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(1)(w), (2)(w).

¹⁴⁹ Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(1)(y).

¹⁵⁰ Iowa Code §483A.3(1)(b).

¹⁵¹ Iowa Code §483A.5.

¹⁵² Iowa Code §483A.24(1).

¹⁵³ Iowa Code §483A.24(9).

¹⁵⁴ Iowa Code §483A.24(10).

¹⁵⁵ Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(1)(aa), (2)(y).

¹⁵⁶ Iowa Code §§481A.94, 481A.95(1).

¹⁵⁷ Iowa Code §481A.95(2).

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- Nonresident fur dealers may purchase permits to operate at locations other than the location specified on the fur dealer's license.¹⁵⁸

D. Resident Game Breeder's Licenses

- Annual game breeder license — \$18 for a resident and \$30.50 for a nonresident.¹⁵⁹
- A person shall not raise or sell game or fur-bearing animals that are protected by law, except rock doves and pigeons, without obtaining a game breeder's license.¹⁶⁰
- Except as otherwise provided by law, a person who obtains a game breeder's license and obtains original stock from a lawful source may possess, breed, propagate, sell, and dispose of any game bird, game animal, or fur-bearing animal or any of their parts.¹⁶¹
- Fur-bearing animals cannot be acquired for breeding or propagation purposes from any source unless pen-raised for at least two successive generations.¹⁶²

E. Deer Hunting Licenses

1. General Provisions

- Resident deer hunting license — \$30.¹⁶³
- Nonresident deer hunting license, antlered or any-sex deer — \$345.50.¹⁶⁴
- Nonresident deer hunting license, antlerless-deer-only — \$263.50.¹⁶⁵
- A person hunting deer who is required to have a hunting license must obtain a deer hunting license and tag designed to be used only once, pay the wildlife habitat fee, and pay a \$1 fee for deer herd population management, including assisting with the cost of the HUSH program administered by the Commission. When a deer is taken, the tag must be dated and attached to the carcass of the deer within 15 minutes of the time the carcass is located after being taken, or before the carcass is moved from where the deer was taken, whichever occurs first.¹⁶⁶
- Nonresidents purchasing an antlered or any-sex deer hunting license are also required to purchase an antlerless-deer-only deer hunting license at the same time — \$146.50.¹⁶⁷
- A resident issued an antlerless deer hunting license may purchase an additional antlerless deer hunting license for \$12.¹⁶⁸
- Residents may purchase no more than two paid any-sex deer hunting licenses.¹⁶⁹

¹⁵⁸Iowa Code §481A.95(1).

¹⁵⁹Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(1)(ee), (2)(ee).

¹⁶⁰Iowa Code §481A.60.

¹⁶¹Iowa Code §481A.61(1).

¹⁶²Iowa Code §481A.61(2).

¹⁶³Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(1)(q).

¹⁶⁴Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(2)(o).

¹⁶⁵Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(2)(q).

¹⁶⁶Iowa Code §483A.8(1), (2).

¹⁶⁷Iowa Code §483A.8(3)(b); Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(2)(p).

¹⁶⁸Iowa Code §483A.8(4); Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(1)(s).

¹⁶⁹Iowa Admin. Code 571-106.6(1).



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- The Commission is limited by statute to issuing no more than 6,000 antlered or any-sex nonresident deer hunting licenses each year and no more than 35 percent of the licenses issued can be bow licenses. After issuing all of the antlered or any-sex licenses allowed, the Commission shall decide how many nonresident antlerless-deer-only deer hunting licenses to make available.¹⁷⁰
- The Commission allocates all nonresident deer hunting licenses among zones based on populations of deer. Nonresidents may request one or more hunting zones and receive a refund of license fees paid if the request cannot be honored.¹⁷¹
- Nonresidents cannot obtain a deer hunting license without first exhibiting proof of successful completion of a hunter education program or its equivalent.¹⁷²
- The Commission assigns a preference point each year to a nonresident who does not receive an antlered or any-sex deer hunting license due to limitations on the number of such licenses issued. Nonresident deer hunting licenses are issued each year pursuant to a drawing beginning with applicants who have the most preference points. Additional preference points may be purchased for \$58.50 each.¹⁷³
- The Commission may issue additional antlerless-deer-only deer hunting licenses to nonresidents who have been issued an antlerless-deer-only deer hunting license and may specify the number, season, and zone of the licenses available.¹⁷⁴
- The Commission is required to establish one or more pistol or revolver seasons for hunting deer as separate firearm seasons or coinciding with other firearm deer hunting seasons. A person 20 years of age or younger is not allowed to hunt deer with a pistol or revolver unless that person is accompanied and under direct supervision throughout the hunt by a responsible person with a valid hunting license who is at least 21 years of age, with the consent of a parent, guardian, or spouse who is at least 21 years of age. The responsible person shall be responsible for the conveyance of the pistol or revolver while the pistol or revolver is not actively being used for hunting.¹⁷⁵
- Paid antlerless-deer-only deer hunting licenses are available based on quotas established by the Commission for each county and are sold until quotas are reached.¹⁷⁶
- A person issued a deer hunting license who takes a deer is required to report to the Commission the county where the deer was taken, the season during which the deer was taken, the sex and age of the deer taken, the type of

¹⁷⁰Iowa Code §483A.8(3)(c).

¹⁷¹Iowa Code §483A.8(3)(d).

¹⁷²Iowa Code §483A.8(3)(d).

¹⁷³Iowa Code §483A.8(3)(e); Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(2)(r).

¹⁷⁴Iowa Code §483A.8(4).

¹⁷⁵Iowa Code §481A.48(5). See 2020 Iowa Acts, ch. 1071, §2.

¹⁷⁶Iowa Admin. Code 571-106.6(2).

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weapon used, the hunting license number of the hunter, the number of days the hunter hunted, and the total number of deer taken by the hunter.¹⁷⁷

- A person having a valid hunting license and a valid deer hunting license who wounds a deer while hunting may use a dog to retrieve the wounded deer. The dog used for tracking a wounded deer and the person using the dog to track a wounded deer shall both be trained in deer blood tracking. The person shall maintain control of the dog at all times by means of a maximum 50-foot lead attached to the dog's collar or harness. Upon retrieving the wounded deer, the person may dispatch the deer using a legal method of take authorized by the person's deer hunting license. The person shall not use that method of take to hunt, wound, or kill any animal other than the wounded deer, except in self-defense. A person may track a wounded deer using a dog on private property with the consent of the property owner. A person using a dog to track a wounded deer outside of legal deer hunting hours shall not be in possession of a firearm or archery device.¹⁷⁸
- A resident on active duty with the United States armed forces on authorized leave from a duty station located outside the state is not required to obtain a hunting license or a deer hunting license, but if a deer is taken the resident must immediately contact a state conservation officer to obtain a deer tag before transporting the deer. Only one military deer tag may be issued annually to such a resident.¹⁷⁹
- Special authorization to use a crossbow for deer hunting during the bow hunting season is available for a disabled person with physical impairment of the upper extremities making the person physically incapable of shooting a bow and arrow.¹⁸⁰

2. Special Deer Hunting Licenses

a. Youth

- A special youth deer hunting license is available to a resident under 16 years of age who possesses a valid hunter education certificate for \$30, unless otherwise eligible for a free deer hunting license.¹⁸¹
- A resident youth must be directly accompanied by an unarmed adult who possesses a regular hunting license and has paid the wildlife habitat fee, if the adult is so required. Only one adult may participate for each youth.¹⁸² A youth who does not take a deer during the youth hunting season may use the deer hunting license and unused tag during any other established deer hunting season to take a deer of either sex using the method of take authorized by rule for each season being hunted. If the tag is filled during

¹⁷⁷Iowa Code §483A.8A.

¹⁷⁸Iowa Code §481A.56A. See 2020 Iowa Acts, ch. 1096, §1.

¹⁷⁹Iowa Code §483A.24(7); Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.25.

¹⁸⁰Iowa Code §481A.38(1)(b); Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.22, 106.7(1).

¹⁸¹Iowa Code §483A.27(1); Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(1)(q), 106.10(1)(a).

¹⁸²Iowa Code §483A.24(8); Iowa Admin. Code 571-106.10(1)(a).



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one of the seasons, the license will not be valid for any subsequent deer hunting seasons.¹⁸³

b. Nonresident Youths with Severe Disabilities or Terminal Illnesses

- A nonresident under 21 years of age who has a severe physical disability or a terminal illness may obtain a special any-sex deer hunting license valid in all zones open to deer hunting and for use during any deer hunting season. The person must purchase a hunting license and a deer hunting license and pay the wildlife habitat fee but is not required to complete the hunter education course if accompanied by an adult with a hunting license.¹⁸⁴

c. Severely Disabled

- A resident with severe disabilities may obtain one any-sex deer hunting license to hunt deer during the youth deer hunting season and any other paid and free general deer and antlerless-deer-only licenses that are available to other hunters.¹⁸⁵
- Nonresidents with severe disabilities that limit or impair the person's ability to walk may obtain a nonresident deer hunting license to participate in a special deer hunting season for severely disabled persons.¹⁸⁶
- A resident applicant must file with the DNR a copy of a disabilities parking permit issued by a state department of transportation or an Iowa physician-verification-of-disability form.¹⁸⁷ A nonresident applicant must either possess a disability parking permit or provide a physician-verification-of-disability form.¹⁸⁸
- Licenses for the special nonresident season are issued from the quotas otherwise established for the issuance of nonresident deer hunting licenses and can be used only in the hunting zone indicated on the license during 16 consecutive days beginning the third Saturday in September.¹⁸⁹

d. Nonambulatory

A resident who is nonambulatory, as verified by a physician, may obtain one any-sex deer hunting license that may be used to hunt deer during any established deer hunting season using the method of take authorized by rule for each season being hunted. If the tag is filled during one of the seasons, the license will not be valid in subsequent seasons.¹⁹⁰

¹⁸³Iowa Code §483A.8(7).

¹⁸⁴Iowa Code §483A.24(12).

¹⁸⁵Iowa Admin. Code 571-106.10(1)(b).

¹⁸⁶Iowa Admin. Code 571-94.10.

¹⁸⁷Iowa Admin. Code 571-94.10.

¹⁸⁸Iowa Admin. Code 571-106.10(1)(b).

¹⁸⁹Iowa Admin. Code 571-94.10.

¹⁹⁰Iowa Code §483A.8C. See 2019 Iowa Acts, ch. 70, §1.



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e. Senior Crossbow

- A resident 65 years of age or older may be issued one special senior statewide antlerless-deer-only crossbow deer hunting license for use during the bow season.
- A licensee must be otherwise qualified to hunt deer in this state and have a resident hunting license, but need not pay the wildlife habitat fee.
- A licensee may obtain this license in addition to a statewide antlered or any-sex deer hunting bow license.
- Season dates, shooting hours, limits, license quotas, and other regulations are the same as set forth by the Commission for bow season deer hunts.¹⁹¹

f. Resident Landowner/Tenant

- Qualified landowners and tenants of a farm unit and their family members are not required to obtain hunting licenses to hunt deer on their farm unit but those persons are required to obtain a special, free deer hunting license valid for use only on the farm unit.¹⁹²
- “Farm unit” means parcels of land that are certified by the Commission as being in tracts of two or more contiguous acres, operated as a unit for agricultural purposes, and under the lawful control of the owner or the tenant.¹⁹³
- An owner of a farm unit or a member of the owner’s family may be issued annually a total of two free deer hunting licenses, one antlered or any-sex and one antlerless-deer-only license, and a tenant of a farm unit or member of the tenant’s family may be issued annually a total of two free deer hunting licenses, one antlered or any-sex and one antlerless-deer-only license, valid only on the farm unit.¹⁹⁴
- Licenses are valid for use during any bow or firearm deer season and may be used to harvest deer in two different seasons.¹⁹⁵
- An owner of a farm unit or a member of the owner’s family, but not both, and a tenant of a farm unit or member of the tenant’s family, but not both, may receive an additional free antlerless-deer-only license if the farm unit lies within a county where paid antlerless-deer-only licenses are made available during a January antlerless-deer-only season.¹⁹⁶
- A resident who receives such a free deer hunting license must pay the \$1 fee for the purpose of deer herd population management, including assisting with the costs of the HUSH program administered by the Commission.¹⁹⁷

¹⁹¹Iowa Code §483A.8B. See 2020 Iowa Acts, ch. 1091, §1.

¹⁹²Iowa Code §483A.24(1), (2).

¹⁹³Iowa Code §483A.24(2)(a)(2).

¹⁹⁴Iowa Code §483A.24(2)(c).

¹⁹⁵Iowa Code §483A.24(2)(c).

¹⁹⁶Iowa Admin. Code 571-106.1(6), (7).

¹⁹⁷Iowa Code §483A.24(2)(c).



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- The resident may purchase a deer hunting license for any option available to other paying deer hunting licensees and may also purchase two additional antlerless deer hunting licenses valid only on the farm unit for a fee of \$12 each.¹⁹⁸
- The resident may be issued a free deer hunting license for each of two calendar quarters, valid only for hunting on the farm unit, if a deer hunting season is established in the first quarter of a calendar year that is separate from the deer hunting season that continues from the last quarter of the preceding calendar year.¹⁹⁹
- Owners, tenants, or family members need not reside on the farm unit to qualify for a free deer hunting license to hunt on that farm unit.²⁰⁰
- A resident issued a free deer hunting license pursuant to the special landowner-tenant provisions must sign a statement attesting that the person qualifies as an owner, tenant, or family member of a farm unit under Iowa Code section 483A.24.²⁰¹

g. Nonresident Landowner

- A nonresident landowner may apply for one of the 6,000 antlered or any-sex deer hunting licenses available, but if unsuccessful in securing one, is given preference for one of the antlerless-deer-only nonresident deer hunting licenses available. A nonresident landowner obtaining such a license must pay the fee for a nonresident antlerless-deer-only deer hunting license and the license is valid only for deer hunting on the nonresident's land.²⁰²
- If one or more parcels of land have multiple nonresident owners, only one owner is eligible to purchase a nonresident antlerless-deer-only deer hunting license.²⁰³
- If a nonresident jointly owns land with a resident, the nonresident is not given preference for a nonresident antlerless-deer-only deer hunting license.²⁰⁴
- Nonresidents applying for nonresident antlerless-deer-only deer hunting licenses may be required to supply proof of land ownership to the DNR.²⁰⁵

h. Special Season

- The Commission may establish a special season deer hunt for antlerless deer in counties where paid antlerless-only deer hunting licenses remain available for issuance.²⁰⁶

¹⁹⁸ Iowa Code §483A.24(2)(d); Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(1)(s).

¹⁹⁹ Iowa Code §483A.24(2)(e).

²⁰⁰ Iowa Code §483A.24(2)(c).

²⁰¹ Iowa Code §483A.24(2)(f).

²⁰² Iowa Code §483A.8(3), (5).

²⁰³ Iowa Code §483A.8(5).

²⁰⁴ Iowa Code §483A.8(5).

²⁰⁵ Iowa Code §483A.8(5).

²⁰⁶ Iowa Code §483A.24B(1).

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- Special season deer hunting licenses are included in the quotas established by rule for each county and are available only until the quotas are filled.²⁰⁷
- Prior to December 15, a resident may obtain up to three paid antlerless-only deer hunting licenses for the special season regardless of how many paid or free gun or bow deer hunting licenses that person has already obtained. Beginning December 15, a resident or nonresident may purchase an unlimited number of special season licenses.²⁰⁸
- Daily bag and possession limit is one deer per license and tag.²⁰⁹
- Special season deer hunting licensees must have a hunting license, pay the wildlife habitat fee, and be otherwise qualified to hunt deer in this state.²¹⁰

i. Holiday Season

- Nonresident antlerless-deer-only deer hunting licenses are available for issuance annually for \$88, valid for use beginning on December 24 and ending at sunset on January 2.
- Nonresidents obtaining such a license must be otherwise qualified to hunt deer in this state, have a nonresident hunting license, pay the wildlife habitat fee, and pay the \$1 fee for deer herd population management, including assisting with the cost of the HUSH program administered by the Commission.²¹¹

j. Economic Development

- Up to 50 nonresident deer hunting licenses are available for allocation, in addition to other nonresident deer hunting licenses authorized in Iowa Code section 483A.8, as determined by the DNR. An additional 25 licenses shall be made available to nonresidents who are currently serving or served in the armed forces of the United States in active duty and became disabled during the nonresident's military service.²¹²
- Licenses are issued to allow state officials and local development groups to promote the state and its natural resources to nonresident guests and dignitaries.²¹³

F. Deer Depredation Licenses and Shooting Permits

1. General Provisions

- The deer depredation management program provides assistance to producers growing agricultural crops (e.g., corn, soybeans, hay, and oats, and tree farms and other forestlands under a timber management program) and producers of high-value horticultural crops (e.g., Christmas trees, fruit or vegetable crops,

²⁰⁷Iowa Code §483A.24B(4).

²⁰⁸Iowa Code §483A.24B(3).

²⁰⁹Iowa Code §483A.24B(5).

²¹⁰Iowa Code §483A.24B(6).

²¹¹Iowa Code §483A.8(6); Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(2)(s).

²¹²Iowa Code §483A.24(3), (5). See 2020 Iowa Acts, ch. 1103, §40.

²¹³Iowa Code §483A.24(3).



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nursery stock, and commercially grown nuts) through technical advice and issuance of additional deer depredation licenses and shooting permits where localized reduction of female deer is needed to reduce crop damage.²¹⁴

- Producers are eligible to enter into deer depredation management plans with the DNR if their crops sustain excessive damage. “Excessive damage” means crop losses exceeding \$1,000 in a single growing season or the likelihood that damage will exceed \$1,000 if preventive action is not taken, or a documented history of at least \$1,000 of damage annually in previous years.²¹⁵
- The goal of a deer depredation management plan is to reduce damage to below excessive levels within a specified time period through a combination of producer-initiated preventive measures and the issuance of deer depredation licenses and shooting permits.²¹⁶
- Preventive measures for producers of typical agricultural crops may include harassment of deer with pyrotechnics and cannons, guard dogs, and temporary fencing, and also allowing more hunters, increasing the take of antlerless deer, and other effective measures, including permanent fencing where necessary. A producer is not required to erect or maintain fencing in order to receive a deer depredation license or shooting permit or to participate in a deer depredation management plan.²¹⁷

2. Deer Depredation Licenses

- May be available for sale to resident hunters for the regular deer hunting license fee for use during one or more legal hunting seasons to harvest antlerless deer only.²¹⁸
- A resident landowner or family member may obtain one free deer depredation license for use on their land for each deer hunting season established by the Commission. Deer may be harvested with a rifle in any area and in any season where the use of rifles is authorized.²¹⁹
- A producer who enters into a depredation agreement is issued authorization numbers, each of which authorizes a resident hunter to obtain a deer depredation license valid only for taking antlerless deer on the land designated in the depredation plan. A producer may transfer an authorization number to a resident hunter who has permission to hunt on the land for which the number is valid. The transferee must be qualified to hunt deer in this state, have a hunting license, and pay the wildlife habitat and deer herd population management program fees.²²⁰

²¹⁴Iowa Code §§481C.2, 481C.2A; Iowa Admin. Code 571-106.11.

²¹⁵Iowa Admin. Code 571-106.11(2).

²¹⁶Iowa Admin. Code 571-106.11(3)(a).

²¹⁷Iowa Code §§481C.2, 481C.2A(3); Iowa Admin. Code 571-106.11(3).

²¹⁸Iowa Code §481C.2A(1); Iowa Admin. Code 571-106.11(4)(a).

²¹⁹Iowa Code §481C.2A(1)(b).

²²⁰Iowa Code §481C.2A(1)(d).



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- Deer depredation licenses are valid for use only on the land where the damage is occurring and the immediately adjacent land unless the land is in a designated block hunt area.²²¹
- Deer harvested with a deer depredation license may be kept and used by the hunter.²²²

3. Deer Shooting Permits

- Available for issuance at no cost to harvest deer outside an established hunting season to producers who incur crop damage that cannot be controlled during hunting seasons and for use on areas where public safety may be an issue (e.g., airports).²²³
- Deer shooting permits issued to producers are issued for the number and type of deer to be harvested as specified in a deer depredation management plan developed by the DNR in consultation with the producer.²²⁴
- Deer shooting permits issued due to public safety concerns may be used for taking any deer, as necessary, to address unpredictable intrusion of deer that could jeopardize public safety.²²⁵
- Deer harvested pursuant to deer shooting permits must be recovered and processed for human consumption. Any antlers recovered must be turned over to a conservation officer for disposal by the DNR.²²⁶

G. Special Deer Management Zones

1. General Provisions

- Season dates are established by the Commission for deer hunting in a special deer management zone and may or may not coincide with regular deer hunting seasons outside the special zone.
- Special licenses are issued only to residents, cost the same as regular deer hunting licenses, and are valid only for the specific special deer management zone.
- Permitted weapons are determined by the Commission with the goal of improving the safety of hunters and the surrounding area.
- Hunters may be required to pass a weapons proficiency test or attend a meeting prior to hunting in a special deer management zone.²²⁷

2. Urban Deer Management Zones

- Established only upon a request from a city government or special urban deer task force and upon approval by the Commission.
- Special bow hunting licenses are issued for the purpose of urban deer control to residents who are trained, volunteer hunters otherwise qualified to

²²¹Iowa Admin. Code 571-106.11(4)(a)(6), (7).

²²²Iowa Admin. Code 571-106.11(4)(a)(4).

²²³Iowa Code §481C.2A(2).

²²⁴Iowa Admin. Code 571-106.11(4)(b).

²²⁵Iowa Code §481C.2A(2)(a); Iowa Admin. Code 571-106.11(4)(b)(4).

²²⁶Iowa Code §481C.2A(4); Iowa Admin. Code 571-106.11(4)(b), (5), (7).

²²⁷Iowa Admin. Code 571-105.



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hunt deer in this state, have a hunting license, pay \$30 for the special deer hunting license, and pay the \$13 wildlife habitat fee. The Commission may issue additional licenses that cost \$10 as necessary to achieve urban deer control.²²⁸

- “Urban deer control” means deer hunting with a bow and arrow on private land in a city or county, without charge, as authorized by a city or county ordinance, for the purpose of reducing or stabilizing an urban deer population in the city or county and is not limited to active engagement in the activity of urban deer control but includes entry onto, passage over, and presence on any part of the land in connection with or during the course of such activity.²²⁹
- Licenses are valid only for the dates, locations, and type of deer specified on the license.²³⁰
- Urban deer control ordinances are not effective until approved by the DNR.²³¹
- Urban deer control ordinances must specify how a person qualifies to participate in urban deer control and where and under what conditions urban deer control may occur.²³²
- The statute limits premises liability of a private landowner toward bow hunters allowed to hunt deer on the landowner’s land, as authorized by a city or county urban deer control ordinance.²³³

3. State Parks and Recreation Areas Deer Management Zones

- Public meeting must be held in the vicinity of the park or recreation area to assess the need for and interest in holding a deer population control hunt in the park or area before designating the park or area as a special deer management zone for the first time.
- Summary of public comments and recommendations must be given to the Commission for its consideration before designating such a special deer management zone.²³⁴

4. Iowa Army Ammunition Plant Deer Management Zone

- A zone defined as all federal land administered by the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant.
- Subject to general restrictions applicable to all other special deer management zones and may include additional special restrictions.²³⁵

5. County Parks Deer Management Zones

- Established in county parks only after a request from a county government and upon approval by the Commission.

²²⁸Iowa Code §461C.8(3).

²²⁹Iowa Code §461C.2(6).

²³⁰Iowa Code §461C.8(3).

²³¹Iowa Code §461C.8(4).

²³²Iowa Code §461C.8(2).

²³³Iowa Code ch. 461C.

²³⁴Iowa Admin. Code 571-105.4.

²³⁵Iowa Admin. Code 571-105.6.



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- Subject to general restrictions applicable to all other special deer management zones and may include additional special restrictions on participating hunters required by a county such as passage of a hunter safety and education course or weapon proficiency test, or approval by the county sheriff or conservation officer.²³⁶

6. Special Deer Management Zones on Private Land

- May be established upon private land upon approval by the Commission.
- Zones, seasons, and conditions for hunting to be determined by the Commission.²³⁷

H. Wild Turkey Hunting Licenses

1. General Provisions

- Wild turkey hunting license — \$26.50 for a resident and \$117 for a nonresident.²³⁸
- A person hunting wild turkey who is required to have a hunting license must obtain a wild turkey hunting license and tag designed to be used only once and pay the wildlife habitat fee. When a wild turkey is taken, the tag must be placed on the turkey and dated.²³⁹
- A person is not required to have a special wild turkey hunting license to hunt wild turkey on a hunting preserve licensed under Iowa Code chapter 484B.²⁴⁰
- Residents on active duty with the United States armed forces on authorized leave from a duty station located outside the state are not required to obtain a hunting license or a wild turkey hunting license, but if a wild turkey is taken, the person must immediately contact a state conservation officer to obtain a wild turkey tag to transport the turkey. Only one military turkey tag may be issued annually to such a resident.²⁴¹
- Wild turkey hunting licenses are issued for either the spring or fall turkey hunting season. A resident can obtain no more than two paid spring wild turkey hunting licenses and no more than two free or paid fall wild turkey hunting licenses.²⁴²
- Fall wild turkey hunting licenses are available only to residents unless the license is a special turkey hunting license issued to a nonresident who is 21 years of age or less with a severe disability or terminal illness.²⁴³
- Nonresidents may hunt wild turkeys only during the spring season and may obtain only one wild turkey spring hunting license.²⁴⁴

²³⁶ Iowa Admin. Code 571-105.7.

²³⁷ Iowa Admin. Code 571-105.8.

²³⁸ Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(1)(v), (2)(v).

²³⁹ Iowa Code §483A.7.

²⁴⁰ Iowa Code §483A.24(13).

²⁴¹ Iowa Code §483A.24(7); Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.25.

²⁴² Iowa Admin. Code 571-98.1, 99.2.

²⁴³ Iowa Code §483A.24(12); Iowa Admin. Code 571-99.1, 99.2(4).

²⁴⁴ Iowa Admin. Code 571-98.9.



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- Possession and season limit for spring wild turkey hunting is one bearded (male) turkey per license.²⁴⁵
- Possession and season limit for fall wild turkey hunting is one turkey of either sex per license.²⁴⁶
- The Commission shall not issue more than 2,300 nonresident wild turkey hunting licenses each year, of which 150 are valid for hunting with muzzleloading shotguns only.²⁴⁷
- The Commission allocates all nonresident wild turkey hunting licenses among zones based on the populations of wild turkeys.²⁴⁸
- Nonresidents cannot obtain a wild turkey hunting license without exhibiting proof of successful completion of a hunter education program.²⁴⁹

2. Special Turkey Hunting Licenses

a. Youth

- Youth under 16 years of age may obtain a special youth spring wild turkey hunting license for \$26.50 unless otherwise eligible for a free wild turkey hunting license, such as a free landowner-tenant wild turkey hunting license. A person who is issued a youth spring wild turkey hunting license and does not take a wild turkey during the youth spring wild turkey hunting season may use the wild turkey hunting license and unused tag during any other wild turkey hunting season that is established by the Commission for the spring of the same calendar year. Youth are not required to obtain a general hunting license to hunt wild turkey.²⁵⁰
- Each youth under 16 years of age hunting wild turkey must be directly accompanied by an unarmed adult who possesses a valid wild turkey hunting license and a hunting license and pays the wildlife habitat fee, if so required.²⁵¹

b. Landowner-Tenant

- Qualified resident landowners, tenants, and their family members are not required to obtain hunting licenses to hunt wild turkeys on a farm unit but are required to obtain special, free wild turkey hunting licenses valid for use only on the farm unit.²⁵²
- “Farm unit” means parcels of land that are certified by the Commission as being in tracts of two or more contiguous acres, operated as a unit for agricultural purposes, and under the lawful control of the owner or the tenant.²⁵³

²⁴⁵Iowa Admin. Code 571-98.1, 98.9(3).

²⁴⁶Iowa Admin. Code 571-99.2, 99.6.

²⁴⁷Iowa Code §483A.7(3)(a).

²⁴⁸Iowa Code §483A.7(3)(a).

²⁴⁹Iowa Code §483A.7(3)(a).

²⁵⁰Iowa Code §§483A.7(4), 483A.24(8); Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(v), 98.6.

²⁵¹Iowa Admin. Code 571-98.6.

²⁵²Iowa Code §483A.24(1).

²⁵³Iowa Code §483A.24(2)(a)(2).



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- The owner of a farm unit or a member of the owner's family may be issued a total of two free wild turkey hunting licenses, one for the spring turkey season and one for the fall turkey season, valid only for use on the farm unit. Additionally, the tenant of a farm unit or a member of the tenant's family may be issued a total of two free wild turkey hunting licenses, one for the spring turkey season and one for the fall turkey season, valid only for use on the farm unit.²⁵⁴
- Residents issued a free wild turkey hunting license pursuant to the special landowner-tenant provisions must sign a statement attesting that the person qualifies as an owner, tenant, or family member of a farm unit under Iowa Code section 483A.24.²⁵⁵
- An owner, tenant, or family member need not reside on the farm unit to qualify for a free wild turkey hunting license and the license issued is equivalent to the least restrictive license issued under Iowa Code section 481A.38.²⁵⁶

c. Nonresident Dignitary Licenses

- Up to 50 nonresident wild turkey hunting licenses are available for allocation, in addition to other nonresident wild turkey hunting licenses authorized in Iowa Code section 483A.7, as determined by the DNR to allow state officials and local development groups to promote the state and its natural resources to nonresident guests and dignitaries. An additional 25 licenses shall be made available to nonresidents who are currently serving or served in the armed forces of the United States in active duty and became disabled during the nonresident's military service.²⁵⁷

d. Nonresident Youths with Severe Disabilities or Terminal Illnesses

- A special wild turkey hunting license is available for issuance to a nonresident under 21 years of age with a severe physical disability or a terminal illness. The license is valid in all zones open to wild turkey hunting and for use during any wild turkey hunting season. The person must purchase a hunting license and a wild turkey hunting license and pay the wildlife habitat fee but is not required to complete the hunter education course if accompanied by an adult with a hunting license.²⁵⁸

I. Falconry Licenses

1. General Provisions

- Three-year falconry permit — \$61.50.²⁵⁹
- A person with a valid falconer's permit, including a nonresident with a valid falconer's permit from another state, is allowed to take, transport, and

²⁵⁴ Iowa Code §483A.24(2)(b); Iowa Admin. Code 571-98.5(7), 99.11(7).

²⁵⁵ Iowa Code §483A.24(2)(f).

²⁵⁶ Iowa Code §483A.24(2)(b).

²⁵⁷ Iowa Code §483A.24(4), (5). See 2020 Iowa Acts, ch. 1103, §41.

²⁵⁸ Iowa Code §483A.24(12).

²⁵⁹ Iowa Admin. Code 571-101.1(4).



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possess certain raptors during the time and in the manner permitted under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and pursuant to rules adopted by the Commission.²⁶⁰

- A resident general or master falconer with at least five current consecutive years of field experience is eligible to apply for a peregrine falcon falconry permit, which allows the resident falconer to attempt to capture, possess, and hunt with a peregrine falcon. The commission shall issue available permits through a lottery drawing. A person who traps a peregrine falcon with a federal leg band or any research band shall immediately release the falcon at the site of capture and report the band number and location of the trapping site to the DNR within 48 hours.²⁶¹
- Nonresidents with a valid falconer's permit from another state may hunt game in this state upon purchase of a hunting license and payment of the wildlife habitat fee.
- Nonresidents may apply for issuance of a nonresident raptor trapping permit that provides for taking raptors if the applicant's resident state issues nonresident raptor trapping permits or licenses or otherwise provides for taking raptors by nonresidents. Fees for such permits are reciprocal to the fee charged by the applicant's resident state or, if that state does not provide for a nonresident raptor trapping fee, the Iowa nonresident raptor trapping fee is \$100.²⁶²
- A person who traps a raptor with a federal leg band or any research band shall immediately release the raptor at the site of capture and report the band number and location of the trapping site to the DNR within 48 hours.²⁶³
- Nonresident raptor trapping permits are issued only to general or master class falconers.²⁶⁴

2. Classes of Resident Permits

a. Apprentice Falconer

- Must be at least 14 years old and be sponsored for the first two years by a general or master falconer permittee.
- Allowed to possess only one raptor at a time and such raptor shall be a red-tailed hawk, obtain only one replacement hawk per year, and not possess nestling or fledgling birds.

b. General Falconer

- Must be at least 18 years old and have at least two years of field experience at the apprentice level.
- Allowed to possess not more than three raptors at a time and obtain only one replacement raptor from the wild during any 12-month period.

²⁶⁰Iowa Code §481A.48(3); Iowa Admin. Code 571-101.1.

²⁶¹Iowa Admin. Code 571-101.4.

²⁶²Iowa Admin. Code 571-101.3(9).

²⁶³Iowa Admin. Code 571-101.3(8).

²⁶⁴Iowa Admin. Code 571-101.3(9).



c. Master Falconer

- Must have at least five years of experience at the general level.
- Allowed to possess no more than five raptors at a time and take only two replacement raptors from the wild in any 12-month period.²⁶⁵

J. Migratory Game Bird Fees

1. General Provisions

- Migratory game bird fee — \$10.²⁶⁶
- Migratory game birds for purposes of the game bird fee requirement are any wild goose, brant, wild duck, snipe, rail, woodcock, or coot.²⁶⁷
- A person who is 16 years of age or older must obtain a hunting license, pay the wildlife habitat fee, pay the migratory game bird fee, and obtain the federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp, commonly called a duck stamp, before hunting or taking any migratory game bird in this state.²⁶⁸

2. Limitations

- Iowa law prohibits taking or possessing any migratory bird other than those that are specified by statute including ducks and geese, mourning doves,²⁶⁹ and designated raptors and crows.²⁷⁰
- A person hunting migratory game birds must register with the Harvest Information Program and supply the hunter's name, address, number of migratory birds taken during the previous year, and other information as requested by the Commission.²⁷¹

VI. Hunting Preserves

A. Hunting Preserves — Iowa Code Chapter 484B

1. General Requirements

- “Hunting preserve,” for purposes of Iowa Code chapter 484B, means property and facilities either privately owned or leased for holding, rearing, releasing, or processing captive-raised game for the purpose of hunting for a fee over an extended season.²⁷²
- Hunting preserves are regulated by the DNR.²⁷³
- Game animals that can be hunted on a hunting preserve are either “game birds,” which are pen-reared birds of the family Gallinae (wild turkeys, grouse, pheasants, and quail) and mallard ducks, or pen-reared ungulates, which are hoofed, nondomesticated mammals other than livestock, known as

²⁶⁵ Iowa Admin. Code 571-101.1(3).

²⁶⁶ Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.12(1)(u), (2)(u).

²⁶⁷ Iowa Code §484A.1.

²⁶⁸ Iowa Code §484A.2; Iowa Admin. Code 571-92.2.

²⁶⁹ Iowa Code §481A.48(1).

²⁷⁰ Iowa Code §481A.48(3).

²⁷¹ Iowa Admin. Code 571-92.7.

²⁷² Iowa Code §484B.1(6).

²⁷³ Iowa Code §484B.3.



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“big game.” Pen-reared animals are game birds and animals from captive populations.²⁷⁴

2. Inspection Requirements

Persons wishing to operate a hunting preserve must obtain an annual operator’s license costing \$200 and submit to an inspection showing that the proposed preserve meets the following specified requirements:

- Is a contiguous tract of land with area of not less than 320 acres and not more than 2,560 acres, owned or controlled by lease or otherwise, for five or more years.
- Total area of all licensed hunting preserves, including the proposed hunting preserve, does not exceed 3 percent of the land area of the county.
- Game birds and ungulates released on the hunting preserve will not be detrimental to wildlife.
- Proposed hunting preserve will not interfere with normal activities of migratory birds.²⁷⁵

3. Other Requirements

- Licensed hunting preserves are required to be identified as such with boundary signs and enclosed by “deer-proof” boundary fences that contain all released ungulates and exclude all ungulates that are the property of the state.²⁷⁶
- Hunting preserve season for taking game birds or ungulates by shooting is September 1 through March 31 of the succeeding year, except a hunting preserve may establish a hunting season for nonnative, pen-reared ungulates on the hunting preserve and may allow hunting at any time for the purpose of training dogs.²⁷⁷
- Persons hunting game birds or ungulates on a hunting preserve must obtain an Iowa hunting license, or an annual hunting preserve license for \$5, valid only for use on a hunting preserve, and pay the wildlife habitat fee.²⁷⁸
- Each game bird and ungulate taken by hunters upon a licensed hunting preserve must be tagged with a hunting preserve transportation tag prior to removal from the hunting preserve.²⁷⁹
- Privately owned animals defined as “farm deer” are considered livestock, are not subject to the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 484B, and are under the jurisdiction of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.²⁸⁰ “Farm deer” means those animals commonly referred to as fallow deer, red deer or elk, whitetail, mule deer, sika, or moose.²⁸¹ “Farm deer” does not

²⁷⁴ Iowa Code §§484B.1(5), (8), (10); Iowa Admin. Code 571-112.1.

²⁷⁵ Iowa Code §484B.4.

²⁷⁶ Iowa Code §484B.5; Iowa Admin. Code 571-112.4, 112.5.

²⁷⁷ Iowa Code §§481A.56, 484B.10(1).

²⁷⁸ Iowa Code §484B.10(2).

²⁷⁹ Iowa Code §§484B.8, 484B.9.

²⁸⁰ Iowa Code §§170.1A, 484B.3(2).

²⁸¹ Iowa Code §170.1(4)(a).



include whitetail deer that are kept on a hunting preserve under Iowa Code chapter 484C.²⁸²

B. Whitetail Deer Hunting Preserves — Iowa Code Chapter 484C

1. General Requirements

- “Hunting preserve,” for purposes of Iowa Code chapter 484C, means land where a landowner keeps preserve whitetail deer as part of a business whose purpose is to provide persons with the opportunity to hunt the deer.²⁸³ “Preserve whitetail” are whitetail deer that are kept on a hunting preserve.²⁸⁴
- Whitetail hunting preserves are regulated by the DNR.²⁸⁵
- A landowner is not allowed to own whitetail deer unless the deer are kept as farm deer subject to the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 170 or as preserve whitetail subject to the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 484C.²⁸⁶
- A whitetail hunting preserve must include at least 320 contiguous acres enclosed by a fence and posted with signs certified by the DNR.²⁸⁷
- A landowner operating a whitetail deer hunting preserve must register annually with the DNR and pay an annual registration fee not exceeding \$350.²⁸⁸
- A landowner is required to notify the DNR before releasing whitetail deer on the preserve.²⁸⁹
- Whitetail deer regulated as farm deer may be transported to a whitetail hunting preserve and are considered preserve whitetail upon their release onto the whitetail hunting preserve.²⁹⁰
- A landowner operating a whitetail hunting preserve must keep required records and file annual reports describing the preserve’s operations.²⁹¹
- Preserve whitetail taken on a hunting preserve must be tagged with a DNR transportation tag and accompanied by a bill of sale prior to removal from the whitetail hunting preserve.²⁹²
- Preserve whitetail purchased, propagated, confined, released, or sold by a hunting preserve must be free of reportable diseases for wildlife, poultry, or livestock.²⁹³

2. Exceptions to Requirements

A whitetail hunting preserve may include fewer than 320 enclosed acres if any of the following applies:

²⁸² Iowa Code §170.1(4)(b).

²⁸³ Iowa Code §484C.1(6).

²⁸⁴ Iowa Code §484C.1(8).

²⁸⁵ Iowa Code §484C.2(b).

²⁸⁶ Iowa Code §484C.2(a).

²⁸⁷ Iowa Code §§484C.5, 484C.6.

²⁸⁸ Iowa Code §484C.7.

²⁸⁹ Iowa Code §484C.8(1).

²⁹⁰ Iowa Code §484C.8(3).

²⁹¹ Iowa Code §484C.9.

²⁹² Iowa Code §484C.10.

²⁹³ Iowa Code §484C.12.



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- The hunting preserve includes at least 160 contiguous acres and is granted a waiver by the Commission.²⁹⁴
- The hunting preserve operated as a business on January 1, 2005.²⁹⁵
- The hunting preserve was not operated as a business on January 1, 2005, but had at least 100 contiguous acres and a fence certified by the DNR no later than September 1, 2005.²⁹⁶
- A person may keep whitetail and elk together on the hunting preserve that includes less than 320 enclosed acres if the person has received a waiver to operate with at least 160 contiguous acres or if the hunting preserve operated as a business on January 1, 2005.²⁹⁷

VII. Enforcement

A. DNR Law Enforcement Bureau

1. Powers

- The DNR Law Enforcement Bureau employs full-time officers with the status of peace officers and the power to enforce all state laws and rules and regulations of the Commission.²⁹⁸
- Full-time officers have the same powers as those conferred on peace officers to enforce all state laws and apprehend violators.²⁹⁹
- Temporary officers employed by the DNR have all powers of peace officers to enforce chapters relating to the jurisdiction of the Commission and to trespass laws.³⁰⁰
- The Director of the DNR or any peace officer can seize, with or without a warrant, any animals illegally taken and shall relinquish them to a representative of the Commission and dispose of or keep them.³⁰¹
- Search warrants shall be issued upon a finding of probable cause by a court with jurisdiction of any offense related to the illegal taking, possession, shipping, hiding, or concealment of animals or furs.³⁰²
- Possession of fish, birds, bird nests, eggs, plumage, or other animals illegally taken; possession of the foregoing at a time or place where such possession is unlawful; or possession of equipment or means of taking such fish, birds, or animals where the possession or use of the equipment is prohibited, is presumptive evidence of a violation of Iowa Code chapter 481A.³⁰³

²⁹⁴ Iowa Code §484C.5(1)(a).

²⁹⁵ Iowa Code §484C.5(1)(b)(1).

²⁹⁶ Iowa Code §484C.5(1)(c)(1).

²⁹⁷ Iowa Code §484C.5(2).

²⁹⁸ Iowa Code §456A.13.

²⁹⁹ Iowa Code §456A.13.

³⁰⁰ Iowa Code §456A.14.

³⁰¹ Iowa Code §481A.12.

³⁰² Iowa Code §481A.13.

³⁰³ Iowa Code §481A.37.

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2. Prosecution

- The Iowa Attorney General is charged with giving opinions on questions of law arising under Iowa Code chapter 481A concerning wildlife conservation.
- All county attorneys in the state are charged with prosecuting criminal violations of Iowa Code chapter 481A.³⁰⁴

3. Venue Information

- Venue for prosecution of violations is the county in which fish, birds, including bird nests, eggs, or plumage, or other animals protected by Iowa Code chapter 481A were unlawfully taken, bought, sold, shipped, received, transported, or found in the possession of any person.
- Multiple violations of Iowa Code chapter 481A may be charged in one information as separate counts.³⁰⁵

4. Judgment

- Upon a conviction of the unlawful taking of fish, game, or fur-bearing animals, the court shall enter judgment in favor of the state for liquidated damages. The prosecutor and the Commission have the duty to collect the damages by execution or otherwise and to remit the moneys collected for credit to the state Fish and Game Protection Fund.
- Return of uninjured fish, game, or fur-bearing animals constitutes discharge of the liquidated damages.³⁰⁶

5. Presumption of Ownership

Wildlife taken in violation of law is conclusively presumed to be owned by the state.³⁰⁷

B. Criminal Penalties

1. Specific Penalties

Some penalties are specified in individual statutes. For example:

- Failure to report a hunting incident involving a firearm or involving a fall from a device allowing elevated hunting is a simple misdemeanor.³⁰⁸
- Taking a predominately white whitetail deer is a simple misdemeanor.³⁰⁹
- Violating a law related to preserve whitetail deer is a simple misdemeanor.³¹⁰
- Unlawfully buying or selling wildlife is a serious misdemeanor.³¹¹
- Intentional interference with lawful hunting, fishing, or fur harvesting is a simple or serious misdemeanor based on the number of violations.³¹²

³⁰⁴Iowa Code §481A.35.

³⁰⁵Iowa Code §481A.36.

³⁰⁶Iowa Code §481A.131.

³⁰⁷Iowa Code §481A.3.

³⁰⁸Iowa Code §481A.18.

³⁰⁹Iowa Code §481A.124.

³¹⁰Iowa Code §484C.13.

³¹¹Iowa Code §481A.136.

³¹²Iowa Code §481A.125.



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- Taking a deer, antelope, moose, buffalo, or elk with a prohibited weapon is punishable as a simple misdemeanor with assessment of a fine of \$100 for each offense committed while taking an animal with the prohibited weapon.³¹³
- Falsely attesting that the person qualifies for a landowner or tenant hunting license is punishable as a simple misdemeanor with license revocation and no new hunting license issued for one year.³¹⁴

2. Scheduled Penalties

Scheduled fines vary in amounts for violation of specific statutes.³¹⁵

3. No Penalty Specified

- Violation of any provision of Iowa Code chapter 481A or any rule of the Commission with no specified punishment is a simple misdemeanor with assessment of a minimum fine of \$20 for each offense. Each animal, nest, egg, or plumage wrongly taken constitutes a separate offense.³¹⁶
- Violation of any provision of Iowa Code chapter 483A with no punishment otherwise specified in Iowa Code section 805.8B(3) is a scheduled violation with a fine of \$135 under Iowa Code section 805.8B(3)(e).³¹⁷

C. Civil Penalties

1. Liquidated Damages

a. Assigned Value of Animal Illegally Taken

In addition to criminal penalties for the unlawful taking of an animal, persons convicted of such an offense must reimburse the state for the value of certain specified animals taken as follows:

- Elk, antelope, buffalo, or moose — \$2,500.
- Wild turkey — \$200.
- Bird, animal, or pelt not otherwise specified — \$50.
- Reptile, mussel, or amphibian — \$15.
- Beaver, bobcat, mink, otter, red or gray fox, or raccoon — \$200.
- An animal classified by the Commission as an endangered or threatened species — \$1,000.
- A deer without antlers, a swan, or a crane — \$1,500.³¹⁸

b. Assigned Value of Antlered Deer Illegally Taken

The value of an antlered deer illegally taken is based on the Boone and Crockett Club's scoring system for whitetail deer:

- 150 gross inches or less — \$2,000 to \$5,000 plus 80 hours of community service, or \$4,000 to \$10,000.

³¹³Iowa Code §481A.32(3).

³¹⁴Iowa Code §483A.24(2)(f)(2).

³¹⁵See Iowa Code §805.8B(3).

³¹⁶Iowa Code §481A.32.

³¹⁷Iowa Code §483A.42.

³¹⁸Iowa Code §481A.130(1).



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- More than 150 gross inches — \$5,000 to \$10,000 plus 80 hours of community service, or \$10,000 to \$20,000.³¹⁹

c. Assigned Value of Fish Illegally Taken

- For each fish of a species other than shovelnose sturgeon, with an established daily limit greater than 25 — \$15.
- For each fish of a species other than paddlefish and muskellunge, with an established daily limit of 25 or less — \$50.
- For each shovelnose sturgeon, paddlefish, and muskellunge — \$1,000.³²⁰

2. Restitution

Persons liable for polluting any water of the state are also liable to pay restitution for injury caused to a wild animal by the pollution.³²¹

3. Property Seized as Public Nuisance

- Any property used to violate a rule of the Commission or a provision of Iowa Code chapter 481A (Wildlife Conservation), 481B (Endangered Plants and Wildlife), 482 (Commercial Fishing), 483A (Fishing and Hunting Licenses), 484A (Migratory Game Birds), or 484B (Hunting Preserves) is a public nuisance and may be condemned by the state after the person from whom the property was seized is convicted of the violation for which the property was seized.³²²
- After a finding by the court that the property is condemnable, title to such property is transferred by court order to the state for use by the state or for sale, with the sale proceeds deposited in the state Fish and Game Protection Fund.³²³
- The DNR holds an annual public sale of seized property, including items such as legal weapons and furs. A DNR employee or any member of the employee's immediate family shall not purchase property seized pursuant to Iowa Code section 481A.12 or property seized as a nuisance.³²⁴

4. Suspension or Revocation of Hunting and Fishing Licenses

- Persons assessed liquidated damages pursuant to Iowa Code section 481A.130 must surrender all licenses, certificates, and permits to hunt, fish, or trap until the assessed damages and any accrued interest are paid in full.³²⁵
- The suspension or revocation of licenses issued by the DNR is determined by a point system that weighs the seriousness of the violation.³²⁶ The point system assigns values to convictions for various offenses and the term of

³¹⁹Iowa Code §481A.130(1)(g).

³²⁰Iowa Code §481A.130(1)(i).

³²¹Iowa Code §481A.151.

³²²Iowa Code §483A.32.

³²³Iowa Code §483A.33(5)(a).

³²⁴Iowa Code §483A.33(6); Iowa Admin. Code 571-10.5.

³²⁵Iowa Code §481A.133.

³²⁶Iowa Code §481A.134.



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suspension or revocation is determined by the total points accumulated during any consecutive three-year period.³²⁷

- The commission of additional offenses while a person's licenses are suspended or revoked is punishable as a simple, serious, or aggravated misdemeanor if two or more convictions occurred within the previous three years while the license was suspended or revoked.³²⁸
- Upon conviction of any violation of Iowa Code chapter 481A or 483A or of any administrative order of the Commission, a magistrate may revoke or suspend license privileges for a definite period.³²⁹
- The hunting license of any person convicted twice within one year of trespassing while hunting shall be suspended or revoked for one year.³³⁰
- The hunting license of any person who illegally takes or possesses an elk, antelope, buffalo, or moose shall be revoked and the violator shall not be allowed to procure another hunting license for the next two calendar years.³³¹

VIII. Revenue and Funding

A. State Fish and Game Protection Fund

1. Iowa Code Section 456A.17

- Fund established by statute in 1935 as a dedicated fund comprised of all revenue derived from license fees and other sources of revenue arising under Iowa's fish and wildlife programs.
- Equitable portion of fees to be placed in the administration fund, sufficient to pay the expenses of administering the duties of the DNR under Iowa Code chapter 456A.

2. Iowa Constitution, Article VII, Section 9

- Enacted in 1996 (44th Amendment) to protect moneys targeted to fish and game protection from being spent for other purposes.
- Amendment requires all revenue from state license fees for hunting, fishing, and trapping, and all state funds appropriated for, and federal or private funds received by the state for the regulation or advancement of hunting, fishing, or trapping, or the protection, propagation, restoration, management, or harvest of fish or wildlife, be used exclusively for the performance and administration of activities related to those purposes.

3. Sources of Revenue for the State Fish and Game Protection Fund

- General hunting and fishing license fees, trout stamps, nongame income tax refund checkoffs (chickadee checkoffs), agricultural leases, and boat registration fees.³³²

³²⁷Iowa Admin. Code 571-15.16(3), (4).

³²⁸Iowa Code §481A.135.

³²⁹Iowa Code §483A.21(1).

³³⁰Iowa Code §483A.21(2).

³³¹Iowa Code §483A.21(3).

³³²Iowa Code §§456A.16, 456A.17.



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- Revenue obtained from liquidated damages paid for unlawful taking of animals, restitution paid for pollution causing injury to wild animals, proceeds from the sale of property seized as a public nuisance, and civil penalties collected for the failure to register a whitetail deer preserve.³³³
- Wildlife habitat fees paid by all hunting and fur harvester licensees and a portion of fees collected from the sale of all annual and seven-day fishing licenses and all resident three-year fishing licenses to be used only for wildlife habitat and fish habitat development, respectively, in the state.³³⁴
- Proceeds from the sale of fish and aquatic organisms by the DNR.³³⁵
- Migratory game bird fees (duck stamps) to be used for the purpose of protecting and propagating migratory game birds and for the acquisition, development, restoration, maintenance, or preservation of wetlands, and for administrative expenses of the Commission.³³⁶

4. Other Projects and Contingencies

- Funds remaining in the state Fish and Game Protection Fund during a fiscal year not specifically appropriated by the General Assembly may be used for capital projects and contingencies under the jurisdiction of the DNR relating to fish and wildlife arising during the fiscal year.³³⁷

B. Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund

1. Iowa Constitution, Article VII, Section 10

- Enacted in 2010 (48th Amendment) to establish a permanent and protected source of funding for the purposes of protecting and enhancing water quality and natural areas in Iowa including parks, trails, and fish and wildlife habitat, and conserving agricultural soils in Iowa.
- No revenue can be credited to the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund until the tax rate for the sales tax imposed on tangible personal property and certain enumerated services in effect on the effective date of the 48th Amendment (November 2, 2010) is raised by the General Assembly.
- Ensures that if the sales tax is raised in the future, 3/8 of 1 percent of the sales tax generated must be annually credited to the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund for the specified purposes of protecting and enhancing the state's natural resources.

2. Iowa Code Chapter 461

Also enacted in 2010 with an effective date of January 1, 2011, to implement the constitutional purposes of the 48th Amendment.³³⁸

³³³ Iowa Code §§481A.131, 481A.151, 483A.32, 483A.33, 484C.13.

³³⁴ Iowa Code §§483A.3, 483A.3A.

³³⁵ Iowa Code §482.1(2)(a).

³³⁶ Iowa Code §484A.4.

³³⁷ Iowa Code §455A.10.

³³⁸ Iowa Code §461.3.



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a. Conditions on Implementation of the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund³³⁹

- Fund comprised of moneys required to be credited to the trust fund and moneys accepted by the DNR, Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, or the Department of Transportation from any source for the constitutional purposes of the trust fund.
- Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund moneys are exclusively appropriated to carry out the constitutional purposes of the 48th Amendment.
- Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund moneys supplement and do not replace moneys appropriated by the General Assembly to support the constitutional purposes of the 48th Amendment.
- Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund moneys shall only be used to support voluntary initiatives and shall not be used for regulatory efforts, enforcement actions, or litigation.

b. Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund Moneys Allocated for Support of Specified Initiatives

- Natural Resources Account – 23 percent of moneys.³⁴⁰
- Soil Conservation and Water Protection Account – 20 percent of moneys.³⁴¹
- Watershed Protection Account – 14 percent of moneys.³⁴²
- Iowa Resources Enhancement and Protection Fund (REAP program) created in Iowa Code section 455A.18 – 13 percent of moneys.³⁴³
- Local Conservation Partnership Account – 13 percent of moneys.³⁴⁴
- Trails Account – 10 percent of moneys.³⁴⁵
- Lake Restoration Account – 7 percent of moneys.³⁴⁶

C. Programs

1. Iowa Resources Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Program³⁴⁷

- Enacted in 1989 and funded from the Environment First Fund (Iowa gaming receipts) through appropriations from the General Assembly and from sales of natural resources license plates.³⁴⁸
- Natural resources license plates feature pictures of the state bird and state flower (American goldfinch and wild rose), an eagle, a pheasant, a whitetail

³³⁹ Iowa Code §461.31(2).

³⁴⁰ Iowa Code §461.32.

³⁴¹ Iowa Code §461.33.

³⁴² Iowa Code §461.34.

³⁴³ Iowa Code §461.35.

³⁴⁴ Iowa Code §461.36.

³⁴⁵ Iowa Code §461.37.

³⁴⁶ Iowa Code §461.38.

³⁴⁷ Iowa Code §455A.18.

³⁴⁸ Iowa Code §§8.57A, 321.34(11).

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deer, or a brook trout, and cost \$45 initially, and \$25 for each annual renewal, in addition to the regular vehicle registration fee.³⁴⁹

- REAP provides funding for eight different programs based on allocations into separate specified accounts for conservation education, state open spaces, county conservation, soil and water enhancement, city parks and open space, state land management, historical resources, and roadside vegetation.³⁵⁰

2. Wildlife Diversity Program

- Of the special natural resources fees collected from the sale of natural resources license plates and credited to the REAP Fund, \$10 for each plate issued, and \$15 for each renewal of a plate, is allocated to the DNR Wildlife Bureau to be used for nongame wildlife programs.³⁵¹
- The wildlife diversity program is also funded through federal grants with state or local matches provided by Iowa State University, the Audubon Society, Pheasants Forever, and other partners.³⁵²
- The wildlife diversity program focuses on landscape and ecosystem management, statewide inventory and monitoring of all wildlife species, training volunteer wildlife surveyors and continuing public outreach functions, and a reduced species reintroduction program. The program also oversees implementation of the Iowa Wildlife Action Plan, a comprehensive strategy to help guide DNR's fish and wildlife management activities over the next 25 years.³⁵³

3. Federal Wildlife Restoration Act

- The Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act was enacted in 1937 to provide federal aid to the states for the conservation and restoration of wildlife.
- Funds are collected from a manufacturers' excise tax on sporting rifles, shotguns, ammunition, archery equipment used in hunting, and handguns.
- Funds are allocated to state wildlife management departments through the United States Secretary of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service.³⁵⁴

³⁴⁹Iowa Code §321.34(11); Iowa Department of Natural Resources, "Iowa Natural Resources License Plates: How To Buy," www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/REAP/License-Plates (last visited December 30, 2020).

³⁵⁰Iowa Code §455A.19; Iowa Department of Natural Resources, "Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)," www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/REAP (last visited December 30, 2020).

³⁵¹Iowa Code §321.34(11)(c)(2).

³⁵²Iowa Department of Natural Resources, "Iowa's Wildlife Diversity Program," www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/Iowas-Wildlife/Wildlife-Diversity-Program (last visited December 30, 2020).

³⁵³Id.

³⁵⁴16 U.S.C. ch. 5B; R. Eliot Crafton, Cong. Research Serv., R45667, Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act: Understanding Apportionments for States and Territories 1 (2019).